



The Rumford Press  
BINDERS.







# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Annual Town Meeting

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Cost... No... CLAREMONT,

HOLDEN

March 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16, 1868 ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

FINANCIAL AND SCHOOL

**REPORTS.**

Claremont, N. H. :

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Claremont, N. H. :

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PROCEEDINGS  
THROCKMOLDS

Annual Meeting  
State of New York

LEGISLATIVE

January 12, 1883

REPORTS



# PROCEEDINGS.

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At a legal Town Meeting duly notified and held at Claremont, on Tuesday, the tenth day of March, 1868, the following officers were chosen :

*Moderator.*

CHARLES M. BINGHAM.

*Town Clerk.*

THOMAS R. GOWDEY.

*Selectmen.*

ALBERT H. DANFORTH,  
JOHN W. JEWETT,  
LABAN AINSWORTH.

*Sup'g School Committee.*

OSMAN B. WAY.

*Collector of Taxes.*

JAMES W. BRADLEY.

*Surveyors of Highways.*

George W. Blodgett,  
Reuben Petty,  
Amos D. Johnson,  
Ruel Pike,  
Charles H. Ainsworth,  
George P. Rossiter,  
Peter Haubrich,  
Charles Breck,  
Josiah Wilson,  
Sylvester Bartlett,  
Gordon Way,  
James Cassady,  
Melvin Proctor,  
Horace Sprague,  
A. K. Butterfield,  
Abial White,  
George Hunter,  
James Piper,

Samuel H. Andrews,  
George C. Grannis,  
Daniel Kenyon,  
Stephen Roberts,  
Samuel Veasey,  
Charles C. Cook,  
William D. Morgan,  
Warren F. Evans,  
Joseph Knights,  
Edmund Neal,  
Bela F. Patrick,  
Mighil Dustin,  
Abner Stowell.

*Hog Reeves.*

Ira Colby, jr.,  
Charles Parkhurst,  
Hiram Long,  
John Blodgett,  
Sylvester Judd,  
Charles H. Eastman,  
Levi Dole,  
Osman B. Way,  
Edward W. Chase,  
Benjamin Nichols,  
Edward A. Geer.

*Surveyors of Wood.*

George W. Blodgett,  
Lucien Severance,  
Horace Sprague,  
Sumner Putnam,  
Edgar Hapgood,  
Frederick A. Briggs,  
John Farrington,

Daniel Burpee,  
Joseph Osgood.

*Constable.*

George W. Blodgett,  
*Sealer of Weights & Measures*

Frederick Jewett.

*Sealer of Leather.*

Samuel W. Blodgett.

*Surveyors of Lumber.*

Nathan A. Meader,

Lewis W. Randall,

Samuel Richardson, jr.,  
William H. Briggs.

*Pound Keeper.*

Leonard Jones.

*Fence Viewers.*

Leonard P. Fisher,  
George W. Blodgett,  
Henry C. Cowles.

*Auditors.*

Hosea W. Parker,  
Edward L. Goddard,  
William E. Tutherly.

### Votes for State and County Officers.

*For Governor.*

Walter Harriman, 664

John G. Sinclair, 284

*For Railroad Commissioner.*

James W. Johnson, 664

George H. Pierce, 285

*For Councillor.*

William E. Tutherly, 640

John Q. Jones, 286

*For Senator.*

Levi W. Barton, 631

Hosea W. Parker, 310

*For Register of Deeds.*

Daniel P. Quimby, 664

John Towne, 285

*For Treasurer.*

Benjamin Whipple, 661

Thomas Whipple, 285

*For County Commissioner.*

Aurelius Dickinson, 640

Charles E. Jackson, 286

Charles O. Eastman, 1

### Appointments by the Selectmen.

*Town Treasurer.*

John L. Farwell.

*Constables.*

Alfred Burrell,

Samuel M. Wood,

Henry S. Parmalee,

Chester E. Albee.

*Special Police.*

Henry L. Hubbard, (Chief)

Walter H. Smith,

Granvill Rowell,  
Roswell H. Jewett,  
George L. Drury.

*Engineers.*

Ormond D. Blood, (Chief)

Edward J. Tenney,

Edwin W. Tolles,

Francis F. Haskell,

Daniel W. Johnson,

Roswell H. Jewett.

## VOTES PASSED.

*Voted*, To raise the sum required by law for the support of Schools the ensuing year.

*Voted*, To raise the sum of two thousand dollars for highways and bridges, to be paid in labor at fifteen cents per hour.

*Voted*, To raise the sum of four thousand dollars for the legal expenses of the town the present year.

*Voted*, To pay Engine Men the same as last year.

*Voted*, To raise the sum of two hundred dollars for Street Lights. Also that the Selectmen be instructed to cause a light to be lighted at the Gilmore Bridge, so called, at an expense not exceeding the sum paid Sumner Putnam for light at the Lower Bridge.

*Voted*, To raise the sum of two thousand dollars for the Soldiers' Monument, provided one thousand dollars be raised by subscription or otherwise.

*Voted*, To raise the sum of seven thousand dollars for a sinking fund and pay the interest of the indebtedness of the town.

*Voted*, That the Selectmen be authorized and instructed to prosecute at the expense of the town all persons engaged in selling spirituous or intoxicating liquors contrary to law.

*Voted*, To fund the indebtedness of the town into 20-year bonds at par, bearing six per cent. interest, payable semi-annually,—to be signed by the Selectmen, and countersigned by the Treasurer.

*Voted*, That the Treasurer be empowered to sell at par, and accrued interest, town bonds sufficient to cover the appropriation made June 11, 1866, for the Stevens High School: to wit a sum not exceeding \$15,000.

*Voted*, That for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the town, \$2000,00 shall be raised annually by taxation and appropriated towards the payment of the principal; that it shall be stipulated in each bond that numbers corresponding to all those upon the bonds outstanding shall be placed in a box and sufficient drawn therefrom yearly—on the first of January, by the Treasurer, in the presence of the Selectmen,—to represent in total value \$2000,00. The bonds

whose numbers have been so drawn to be paid on the day of the payments of the next semi-annual interest; and if not presented, interest on the same to cease from and after that date.

*Voted,* To pay the Collector of Taxes one hundred and fifty dollars for collecting the taxes of the town the present year.

*Voted,* That the East door of the Town House be finished to correspond with the South and West doors, making use of the old stone steps.

*Voted,* That Oscar J. Brown, John S. Walker and John F. Cossitt be a committee to superintend the same.

*Voted,* That the above named gentlemen be a committee to improve and beautify the Park at an expense not to exceed the sum of five hundred dollars, provided a like sum be raised by the citizens for the same purpose or any part thereof.

*Voted,* That the Selectmen be authorized to build a fence inclosing not exceeding two acres of land west of and adjoining the Catholic Cemetery as a place for the burial of the dead, at a sum not to exceed one hundred dollars.

*Voted,* That the Selectmen be instructed to collect from the estate of Lewis Perry, or his bondsmen, the balance of taxes remaining in said Perry's hands at the time of his decease.

*Voted,* That Edward L. Goddard, John S. Walker, Ira Colby, jr., Hosea W. Parker and Hiram Webb be a committee on the Stevens High school.

*Voted,* That the Selectmen be requested to present to the town in their annual report estimates of the annual appropriation required for the next fiscal year.

*Voted,* To pay the Moderator twenty dollars for his services as Moderator.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year Ending March 2, 1868.

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VALUATION OF TOWN, APRIL 1, 1867 :

Real Estate, includ'g factories & machinery,	\$1,380,426 00
Personal Estate,	511,048 00
Nine hundred and fifty polls, at \$240 00 each,	228,000 00
Total valuation,	<u>\$2,119,474 00</u>

The rate of taxation is \$1 43 in money, and 9½ cents in labor on \$100 00.

The amount of tax required to be assessed by law and by vote of Town is as follows :

For State tax,	\$10056 25	
County tax,	6218 12	
Schooling as required by law,	3218 00	
Schooling by vote,	500 00	
Legal expenses of Town,	3000 00	
Paying int. of the indebtedness of the Town,	5000 00	
Soldiers' Monument,	1000 00	
Street lights,	150 00	
Add percentage as allowed by law about 4 per cent.	1195 57	
Tax on Dogs,	140 00	
Whole am't of tax assessed on Town,	<u>          </u>	\$30477 94
School House tax in District No. 1,		1574 13
“ “ in District No. 3,		66 12
Total,		<u>\$32118 19</u>

## TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

## RECEIPTS,

*Or Am't received by Treasurer, for year ending Mar. 2, 1868 :*

Balance in Treasury March 5, 1867,	\$2676 38
Cash rec'd Town Plainfield, support of poor,	7 00
Co. of Sullivan, " "	907 79
City of Nashua, " "	75 16
For circus license,	30 00
E. Peaslee, for plank,	50
Sullivan County, pauper acct.,	945 50
Town of Acworth, "	81 25
Circus License,	30 00
Town farm, board of Mrs. Smith,	5 00
Hanover, on pauper account,	20 07
L. F. Davis, rent of house,	121 19
Sullivan Co. on pauper acct.,	459 19
School land rents,	50 57
Abijah Williams tax,	2 08
E. W. Tolles, for shingles,	1 75
Town Charlestown, pauper acct.	24 50
A. Burrill, for Town Hall,	82 31
James Manning, support of poor,	6 00
Savings Bank tax 1867,	954 69
Railroad tax 1867,	112 81
Literary Fund 1867,	127 35
U. S. Bounties refunded,	895 00
Interest on County orders,	33 29
T. R. Gowdey, on liquor acct.,	90 00
Money borrowed of sundry persons,	18125 75
Cash rec'd of S. M. Wood, taxes of '67,	14931 77
of J. W. Bradley, " '66,	155 34
of Conn. River Bank, for tax,	38 50

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 40990 74

## DISBURSEMENTS.

For repairs on Highways and Bridges,	\$1071 94
Schooling,	3895 71
Ringling bells and Sexton's services,	195 75
Support of Poor,	2109 84
Abatement of Taxes,	420 48
Building School House in District No. 1,	1510 75
"        "        "        "        3,	65 00
Paying debts of Town,	13581 51
"    interest on indebtedness of the Town,	3471 53
Damages on sheep by dogs,	46 00
Repairs on Town House,	9000 00

## Incidental Expenses.

Paid J. W. Bradley, services as Sheriff,	\$4 64
A. Burrill, services at town house,	15 05
A. Hastings, damages to carriage,	8 00
P. C. Freeman, for insurance,	24 50
Gould & Co., stove pipe, &c.,	9 05
Whitney, for watering-trough,	3 00
H. C. Fitch, repairing street lanterns,	5 75
P. C. Freeman, insurance,	27 00
G. Rowell, varnishing hearse,	12 00
F. A. Briggs, for feather duster,	2 50
Ainsworth, spring of water,	300 00
Stowell & Co, lumber,	22 53
H. A. Barker, work on cemetery,	10 00
N. C. Bancroft, "        "	6 50
I. Hitchcock, gas bill,	32 50
P. C. Freeman, insurance,	27 00
W. D. Morgan, work on west cemetery,	6 00
L. Gould, lighting street lamps,	24 00
A. Burrill, work on cemetery,	1 25
H. A. Barker, work on tomb at west cem.	8 50
G. W. Merrifield, stationery,	20 60
P. C. Freeman, insurance,	15 00
G. H. Abbott, bounty on bear,	4 00
Putnam & Peirce, kerosene, &c.,	2 28
L. Gould, lighting lanterns,	18 00
E. H. Sprague, insurance,	100 00
F. S. Chellis, watering-trough,	3 00
For license,	10 00
A. Blodgett, insurance on Davis House,	6 44

Upham & Co.,	216 15
W. B. Henry, work on hearse,	2 60
S. Ide, printing,	15 48
J. Weber, "	14 25
T Whipple, surveying,	2 00
G. N. Farwell, for rent,	31 00
F. A. Briggs, chairs,	22 50
F. Locke, freight bill,	5 55
F. Norton,	20
Clar. Manuf'g Co., printing, &c.,	52 78
Ira Colby Jr., legal services,	33 00
J. Weber, printing,	6 00
I. Hitchcock, gas,	124 00
Amsden, damages,	40 00
R. Jarvis, watering-trough,	3 00
J. McLaughlin, "	6 00
F. Locke, expenses to Concord, &c.,	38 07
A. Burrill, wood for town house,	34 90
T. R. Gowdey, alcohol for thawing pipe,	1 65
H. C. Cowles, for stamps,	7 33
A. Briggs,	77
C. M. Bingham, stamps, &c.,	24 65
Ira Colby, for N. H. Reports,	9 00
	<hr/> \$1419 97

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

C. M. Bingham, pay of Engine men,	\$360 00
H. C. Fitch, water-pipe, &c.,	39 63
J. Clark, for hose and couplings	322 20
E. J. Bowen, repairs on hose,	26 85
O. D. Blood, labor, &c.,	14 70
F. A. Briggs, expenses on hose,	2 75
W. Cook, services as Steward,	6 00
H. C. Fitch, water-pipe, &c.,	145 90
O. D. Blood, for hose,	197 80
F. A. Briggs, paid Hunneman,	18 90
C. E. Albee, work,	1 40
W. B. Henry, "	50
W. Cook, services as Steward,	6 00
A. Parmelee, " "	13 00
T. D. Kimball, rent of land and ladder,	12 20
Monadnock Mills dirt and labor,	48 85
Upham & Co., pipe, labor, &c.,	39 99
	<hr/> \$1256 67



## TOWN OFFICERS.

J. M. Milton, services as Constable,	\$62 50
E. W. Tolles, " " Selectman, 1866,	19 00
W. E. Tutherly, " " " 1867,	15 75
C. E. Albee, " " Constable,	8 75
F. Norton, " " Selectman, 1867,	4 00
H. L. Hubbard, " " Constable,	21 50
S. M. Wood, " " Coll'ct & Const.,	155 00
G. Rowell, " " " "	10 00
T. R. Gowdy, " " Town Clerk,	44 29
E. Hurd, " " Constable,	10 00
H. C. Cowles, " " Selectman,	147 00
A. Briggs, " " " "	218 00
F. Locke, " " " "	212 00
J. M. Milton, " " Constable,	15 50
C. M. Bingham, " Treas. & Moderator,	85 00
<hr/> \$1032 29	

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Amount of money raised by law,	\$3218 00
" " " vote of town,	500 00
" " recd. for rent school lands,	50 57
" " for Literary fund,	127 35
Amount appropriated for schools,	<hr/> \$3895 92

Which, after deducting \$115 00, for Superintending School Committees, is divided by vote of Town, \$60 00, to each district, and the remainder by the scholars, which gives to 1164 scholars nearly \$2 27½ each.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>Am't.</i>	<i>District.</i>	<i>Scholars.</i>	<i>Am't.</i>
No. 1	263	656 69	11	35	139 41
2	38	146 22	12	13	89 49
3	32	132 60	13	24	114 46
4	37	143 95	14	23	112 19
5	55	184 79	15	153	407 13
6	12	87 22	16	12	87 22
7	34	137 14	17	289	715 69
8	27	121 26	18	43	157 57
9	47	166 63	19	14	91 76
10	13	89 49			

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1164 \$3780 91

Add Superintending School Committees, salaries, 115 00

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\$3895 91

## Recapitulation of Treasurer's Account.

### RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury, March 5, 1867,	\$2676 38
Money borrowed of sundry persons,	18125 75
“ received from Tax Collector,	15087 11
“ “ “ other sources	5101 50
	<hr/> \$40990 74

### DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid for schooling,	\$3895 91
support of poor,	2109 84
Sexton's services,	195 75
Highways,	1071 94
Incidental expenses,	1419 97
Town Officers,	1028 29
Debts of Town,	13581 61
Building of School Houses,	1575 75
Abatement of Taxes,	420 48
Fire Department,	1256 67
Damages on sheep,	46 00
Repairs on Town House,	9000 00
Interest on indebtedness of town,	3471 53
	<hr/> \$39073 44

Balance in Treasury, March 2, 1868,	\$1917 30
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## PAUPER ACCOUNT,

### OR COST OF SUPPORTING THE POOR.

Amount of property at Town Farm,	
March, 1867,	\$2079 60
Int. on Town Farm & personal property,	244 77
Due on County order, March 1, 1867,	907 79
“ “ Town “ “ “	357 94
Paid by Selectmen,	2109 34
	<hr/> \$5669 94

Amt. property at Town farm, Mar. '68,	\$2496 66
Received from County and Towns for	
support of poor, including \$1265 73,	
due March 1, 1867,	2526 46
Due from County unsettled,	61 33
	<hr/> \$5084 45

Net cost of supporting the Poor,	<hr/> \$615 49
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**LIQUOR AGENCY.**

Amount Liquors on hand, Mar. 1, 1867,	\$310 44
“ “ “ “ “ 1868,	220 54
“ paid into Treasury by Agent,	89 90
	<hr/> \$310 44
Result showing neither profit or loss to the town.	
Amount received for sales,	\$2491 61
“ paid for Liquors,	\$2109 93
“ “ “ Freight,	41 78
“ “ “ Salary,	250 00
“ “ “ into Treasury,	89 90
	<hr/> \$2491 61

**LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.**

Due on Notes given by Selectmen, previous to Mar.	
14, 1865, including interest to March 2, '68,	\$42441 99
Due on Notes given by Treasurer, since March	
14, 1865, including interest to March 5, 1868,	40343 94
	<hr/> \$82785 93
To sundry persons for repairs on Town-House,	901 63
	<hr/> \$83687 56

**ASSETS.**

Balance in Treasury, March 2, 1868,	\$1917 32
Due from Sullivan County, unsettled,	61 33
Due for rent of Cemetery land,	33 75
Due from Collector of 1864,	120 65
“ “ “ “ 1867,	\$1464 44
Less non-resident tax on Bank Stock,	614 43
	<hr/> 850 01
	<hr/> \$2983 06

Indebtedness of Town over & above cash assets, \$80704 56

Repairs on Town-House have cost, deducting sales of old material, \$9901 63. Of which \$9000 00 have been paid, leaving bills to the amount of \$901 63, still due.

H. W. PARKER, }  
 E. L. GODDARD, } *Auditors.*  
 A. DICKINSON, }

## CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The Chief Engineer would respectfully submit the following report:

The Fire Department during the past year has been in a prosperous condition, and has, we think, never been in more perfect working order than at the present time. There is every reason to believe that if called upon it would show itself prepared for any emergency.

Engine Companies No 3 and No. 4 have been through the year fully manned and well officered and drilled; their meetings have been regularly and fully attended; their engines and apparatus have been kept in good repair and frequently tested, with satisfactory results. A large amount of new and excellent hose has been provided to supply the place of that which has been old and deficient.

An important and valuable addition has been made to the efficiency of the Hydrant by connecting it with another pump at the Monadnock Mills. Before, it was so situated that there was sometimes weeks together that it was not available as a means of extinguishing fires, but now we believe that it can at all times be relied upon as ready for immediate use.

Engine No. 1 has a volunteer company attached to it, under the command of E. H. Jaques, and is in good repair and well fitted up ready for efficient and active service in case of need. We would recommend the formation of a Hook and Ladder company, as we believe this arm of the service is important.

The Reservoirs are in good repair and well supplied with water. Examination has from time to time been made of the various dwellings and buildings in the village as to their security from fire, the manner of keeping ashes, &c., and we are happy to report usually with satisfactory results.

The expenses of the department have been somewhat more than usual, but have placed it in such a condition that very little will be needed for the year to come. They are as follows:

Amount paid for hose, couplings, and repairs on same,	\$568 50
for repairs on engines,	290 97
for repairs on hydrant, &c.,	37 20

Whole amount,	<u>\$896 67</u>
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To which will have to be added amount due Engine men April 1st, to show the entire expense for the year.

In conclusion, we would say that though fires have rarely occurred in times past,—hardly an alarm having been sounded during the year,—it is no reason why we should relax our vigilance, as we can have no better or more important security for property than a well-organized and efficient fire department.

O. D. BLOOD.

Claremont, March 2, 1868.



# SCHOOL REPORTS.

## REPORT

Of the Superintendent of the Common Schools, for the year ending March 10, 1868.

The Superintendent of Public Schools in the town of Claremont, for the year ending March 10, 1868, makes the following report :

The Superintendent is happy to report that in his belief the public schools of Claremont have been fully up to the average of former years in value and efficiency ; and that, taken as a whole, they have been a credit to the town.

In every district, within this jurisdiction, at least one term of school has been sustained ; and in several, three terms. The following table exhibits the number of scholars in each district, as reported to the Selectmen in April—the number of those who actually attended not less than two weeks—the amount of money drawn from the town treasury—the cost of school per scholar—number of weeks schooling and cost of schooling per week, by the scholar, in each district.

Number of District.	Scholars in District.	Scholars attending.	Amount of School Money.	Cost per Scholar.	Weeks of School.	Cost schol. per week.
1	263	160	\$656 69	4 10	30	,14
2	38	33	146 22	4 43	20	,22
3	32	34	132 60	3 90	25	,16
4	37	22	143 95	6 54	20	,33
5	55	29	184 79	6 37	30	,21
6	12	14	87 22	6 23	18½	,34
7	34	37	137 14	3 71	19	,19
8	27	14	121 26	8 66	23	,37
9	47	34	166 63	4 90	30	,16
10	13	8	89 49	8 95	15½	,58
11	35	33	139 21	4 22	17	,25
12	13	12	89 49	7 46	20	,37
13	24	13	114 46	8 80	24	,37
14	23	24	112 19	4 67	23½	,20
15	153	94	407 13	4 33	32	,13
16	12	9	87 22	9 69	21	,46
18	43	32	157 57	4 92	23	,21
19	14	8	91 76	11 47	14	,82
	875	610	\$3065 02		405	

The above statement exhibits the very striking inequality which exists in our public schools, the cost of teaching our children and

the amount of instruction afforded them. The preference, in nearly every view of the case, falls upon the larger schools. The Superintendent is convinced that really commendable progress, in study, is almost unknown in the smallest schools of the town. He can but believe that the good of the town, as well in the economical expenditure of school money, as the instruction of our children, requires that the districts be so re-arranged as that twenty scholars may be the least number ever taught in one school. It will probably be found absolutely necessary, when the Stevens High School comes into operation, for the dwellers in the more thinly settled portions of the town, to combine their means and their children in order that they may reap their share of the benefit of that most important institution.

Besides the subject just mentioned, there is nothing that so injuriously interferes with good progress in school as irregularity and tardiness in the attendance of the pupils. Too much cannot be said on this point. A tardy and irregular child is an inattentive scholar; and such an one injures not only himself but the progress of all the rest in his or her classes. This matter is wholly within the control of the parents; and, it is believed, that, if they would regard the true interests of their children, as they should, nine-tenths of the evil would vanish. The time of the children should be absolutely devoted to school; and neither work required of nor play allowed them, which can interfere with school duties. Children take their cue from their parents; and if they find them holding high views of the importance of regularity and punctuality at school, they will easily fall into the same. But if the parent is ready to keep the child a few minutes too long in the morning, for a trivial reason, or will permit him to remain absent entirely, without good cause, no efforts of the best teacher, can much avail for any good to the child. The Superintendent is sorry to find that the village schools lose most, comparatively, on this account. Stringent measures of reform are imperatively needed. A list of those scholars who have distinguished themselves for regularity, punctuality and correctness of deportment will be found at the end of this report.

In the matter of School Houses no progress has been made during the past year. A majority of the Districts have structures which are comfortable, commodious, and fairly located. But in two or three Districts the accommodation, or rather total lack of accommodation, is disgraceful. For children to stay in such places, ill ventilated, yet abounding in cracks and crevices for cold draughts just where they should not be, without constant colds and coughs, is almost impossible. It cannot be thought strange that schools should be reduced by illness. In fact, the most common remark that meets the ear of the visitor is "many of my scholars are absent on account of sickness" while the coughs that come from little throats bound around with flannel indicate that more ought to be at home for the same reason.

With one or two exceptions, the means of ventilation are very inadequate. Perhaps two thirds of our school rooms are but 7 or 8 feet in height; and say 15 by 20 feet square. A stove is placed in the centre, burning all the wood it can; while from one to three dozen children sit around. In the ceiling may be found one or

two contrivances called ventilators; the whole capacity of which would not exceed six inches; which is absurdly inadequate. The house on Washington Street has a trap door in the ceiling, say two feet square, which can be opened more or less, at pleasure.—This contrivance is recommended for adoption in all the smaller houses. One unpleasant feature meets the eye of the visitor in a majority of our school houses, viz: A lack of attention to small repairs. A pane of glass broken,—a little paper off in one place or a spot of plastering gone in another. All this looks badly, and has an ill effect upon scholars. The school premises should be put in perfect order, then place them in the exclusive charge of the teacher, requiring him or her to ascertain and report the name of any scholar doing mischief. Let the damage be immediately repaired at the expense of such scholar and we should soon see the last of those petty depredations upon public property.

We may say, in general, that the persons who have taught our schools, during the year past, have been, in most instances, of a high grade in scholarship and in their capacity for government; but we shall refrain from special praise of one or condemnation of another. The town is interested to know about their schools, but not to be instructed, in this report, as to the qualities of Mr. A. or Miss B. The teacher will be criticised only so far as is necessary in speaking of the school.

DISTRICT No. 1. In this district, three graded schools have been kept. The year was divided into three terms, of 10, 13 and 7 weeks respectively. The Grammar department, in the new house on High Street, has been taught by Miss M. A. Vaughan, of Woodstock, Vt. This school has acquired and maintained a high reputation; and is, perhaps, as good as any of the same grade in the State. Some insubordination was manifested by the larger boys during the second term, of which, considering their age and intelligence, they ought to be heartily ashamed. The Intermediate Department has been under the charge of Miss Annie E. Bliss. This school has been eminently successful, in every respect, throughout the year. The Summer term of the Primary Department was under the instruction of Miss Clara F. Randall. The very kind, patient and assiduous efforts of the teacher were not rewarded with the greatest measure of success in the matter of order. The children seemed interested in their studies, however. The second and third terms were in charge of Miss Martha S. Moore, whose labors secured a very considerable advance upon the preceeding term.—The children made commendable progress in their studies. No other department requires so much tact or genius as the government of a primary school. Teachers who would succeed perfectly with older scholars often fail with the little ones.

DISTRICT No. 2. (Puckershire.) Two terms have been kept. The Summer term was very well instructed and governed by Miss Mary J. Sanborn. About 20 scholars in attendance. Many of the pupils exhibited a lack of quickness, but excellent spirit was manifested and very good improvement made. Miss Anna E. Colby conducted the school during the Winter; it was well attended, the instruction careful and progress all that could be expected. A very good school.

DISTRICT No. 3. (Cornish Road.) The school year was divided into two terms of 12 and 13 weeks respectively. Miss Ellen J. Balloch, of Cornish, taught during the Summer. The school was small and composed almost entirely of the younger children of the District. There seemed to be no special emulation among the scholars, but the order was good and progress in studies as great as could have been expected. Austin S. Bronson, of Weathersfield, Vt., taught during the Winter. The school was quite full and a very pleasant interest stirred up. The District may feel that their money was well expended.

DISTRICT No. 4. (Dustin neighborhood.) Imogen E. Barnes instructed this school during the Summer term. The number in attendance was small and a considerable proportion of the children young and backward; these facts tended to prevent any special interest in learning. Work, in such cases, can seldom exhibit very marked results.

Albro F. Nichols, of Unity, taught in the Winter. The school was larger than in the Summer, which was well; but the increase served also to show more plainly the mean school-house accommodations provided for their children, by the District. The term was undoubtedly a profitable one.

DISTRICT No. 5. (The West-part.) Three terms of which Miss L. J. Ellis taught during the Summer and Fall. The school attained quite a high average of efficiency. The number in attendance was about 20. There seemed to be considerable alacrity in study.

Miss M. E. Rogers had the school during the Winter. Several having moved from the District the attendance was smaller than in Summer. The spirit was excellent and a pleasing quickness shown in answering questions.

DISTRICT No. 6. (Bible Hill.) Miss Mary D. Fifield commenced the Summer term and kept three or four weeks, when sickness obliged her to resign her charge to Miss S. A. Holbrook, of Cornish. The school was so small as to be almost absurd—only four or five children. The term was carried through and the district seemed satisfied.

Miss Helen M. Colby taught during the Winter. The school was of considerable size, and many of the children well advanced. The term was a good one and the public money profitably expended.

DISTRICT No. 7. (Thompson's.) Two terms, that in Summer short. Miss P. L. Grow instructor, in Summer. School-house good and fair number of scholars. The term was very profitable. The Winter school was taught by Mr. H. C. Sanders, who fully sustained the character that the school acquired during the Summer. The District may consider that they have had a good year.

DISTRICT No. 8. (River road to Charlestown.) The two terms into which the year was divided were both under the instruction of Miss Mary W. Putnam. The school was small, but the scholars active, and remarkable progress was made during both Summer and Winter. The quickness of answering, when examined, was especially pleasing.

DISTRICT No. 9. (Draper's Corner.) There were three terms of school. Miss C. F. McCullough commenced the Summer term but



was obliged to relinquish it on account of illness. Miss M. J. Walker completed the session. The school was well administered and the progress made, satisfactory.

The Fall and Winter terms were in care of Miss McCullouch.—The school was of a very fair size; but a large proportion of the children young and backward. The teacher's exertions were unremitting and eminently faithful, but the degree of order attained, particularly with the smaller scholars, was not of the very highest.

DISTRICT No. 10. (Thomas' neighborhood.) Miss C. E. Wightman kept watch and ward over the three or four scholars who composed this school during the Summer, and the three or four more who attended in the Fall with a patience worthy of, at least, a larger cause. The school made as good progress as they could under the circumstances.

DISTRICT No. 11. (Old Newport road.) Miss Ellen M. Weed kept the school during a short Summer term. The order in school was good but the answers of the children slow and confused. The labors of the teacher could not be without effect, yet the session was so short that not much can be said of it.

Miss Mary L. Chellis, of Plainfield, taught during the Winter. The school was larger and considerable improvement manifested. Certain of the larger boys being guilty of unbecoming and improper conduct were admonished by the Superintendent with good effect.

DISTRICT No. 12. (Green Mountain.) Augusta A. Davis, of Newport, had charge through the year, Summer and Fall terms. The house is very nice and beautifully located. School small and not far advanced. Order was kept and progress made.

DISTRICT No. 13. (Bond Dist.) Miss Mary D. Fifield taught during the Summer. The school was small and scholars young. The teacher was ambitious and painstaking so that reasonable progress was certain.

Miss L. A. Thrasher instructed during the Winter. The school was still small in numbers and no special emulation visible, but the teacher was patient and accomplished all that was possible.

DISTRICT No. 14. (Red Water Brook.) Miss Meda Copeland, of Unity, had charge through the year. The house is a comfortable one and finely located. The school of a good size. Taking it all together it was a successful school.

DISTRICT No. 15. (North Street.) Two schools, graded, have been maintained during three terms in this district. Miss Martha M. Ellis taught the Grammar department during the Summer and Fall. The school was one of our best and most successful.

Miss C. J. Richardson had charge of the Primary department during the Summer. The result of her efforts, though they were assiduous, was far from satisfactory in any respect. Miss P. L. Grow had the school during the Fall and Winter and fully redeemed its character. It was a first class primary.

Miss Abbie E. Taylor, of Springfield, Vt., taught the Grammar school in the Winter. Her term completed a very successful year and one highly creditable to the district.

DISTRICT No. 16. (Horace Dean's.) Miss A. D. Pike taught, both Summer and Winter. The school is small but quiet and studious. Several children from Charlestown attend and pay in this district adding to the numbers and interest. This is a nice house and pleasantly located.

DISTRICT No. 18. (Washington Street.) Miss Clara A. Bailey instructor during Summer term. The school was of a very pleasant and profitable size—the children fairly advanced, and, under the energetic labors of the teacher, did well. Mr. H. E. Tutherly taught during the Winter. Under his tuition the session was highly successful.

DISTRICT No. 19. (Grannis neighborhood.) There was no Summer term. Miss Martha A. Grannis had charge during the Winter. The school was very small and accommodations wretched; and, in spite of the most intelligent efforts of the teacher, the progress, apparently, moderate.

The Superintendent begs leave to urge our Districts, at school meetings, to elect their best men to the very responsible office of Prudential Committee—this trust being too often put upon a man solely because he is willing to accept it—and he hopes that no good citizen will decline to serve when elected. It is one of the most sacred and important of duties to see that the funds for schooling of our children are faithfully and wisely administered.

The practice of hiring the first teacher who applies, is earnestly to be deprecated. The fact that a person button-holed the agent on his way home from the school meeting, where he was elected, should not be held to establish any right whatever to the position sought for. The agent should rather seek for his teacher and not wait for one to apply. Let him take advice of those competent to give it, then go and hire the very best that the circumstances of his District will allow. It is not by any means invariably the case that the most expensive teachers are the best, for a beginner may be willing to teach at a moderate price and turn out to be a first class instructor. In fact the price should not be made the test in deciding the question. Get a person, whom you have the best reason to suppose will do good service, whether cheap or dear.

The Superintendent has been pleased at the introduction of singing into our schools; and hopes that, whenever practicable, it will be continued; he recommends that hymns or music of a devotional character shall only be used as a strictly devotional exercise and not for the ordinary recreation and refreshment of the scholars.—The reason of this must be obvious to sober minded persons.

The Superintendent most heartily congratulates the town upon the near prospect of the opening of a Graded School of the very highest character. It can but exercise a most beneficial effect upon all our public schools; and in this matter alone we may expect an ample return for our entire expenditure.

The following is the list referred to above, as reported by the teachers:

DISTRICT No. 1.—Clara F. Blodgett, Hattie A. Brown, Ida J. Blood, Lulu F. Bingham, Elizabeth C. Farwell, Frances C. Martin, Emily L. Osgood, Susie F. Osgood, Hattie L. Rand, Ida Proc-

tor, Charles E. Perry, F. F. Whittlesey, Edwin Hitchcock, Henry Markoff, Frank Perry. No. 2.—Verona Farnsworth, Cordelia Butcher, Rosa Butcher, Maria E. White, Nellie S. Knights. No. 3.—Clara E. Dunsmoor, Edna J. Pope, Marcella E. Hammond, Clara Lovejoy, Angie R. Dunsmoor, Jennie Dunsmoor, Sylvester Dunsmoor, Eddie Lovejoy. No. 4.—Josephine Ballou, Mary E. Dustin, Stella M. Weld, Jennie Weld, John Linch, Bridgett Noonan, Foster Weld. No. 5.—Josie H. Canty, Mary J. Dooly, Ada J. Ayer, Jennie L. Barker, James Canty, Johnny Canty. No. 7.—Alice Davis, Clara Davis, Abbie Leet, Francis E. Leet, Christina F. Smith, Minnie B. Smith. No. 8.—Julia M. Wenham, Nellie H. Rogers, Ellen E. Long, Geo. W. Newton. No. 9.—Mary M. Edson, Hattie E. Drury, Nellie M. Drury, Abbie E. Densmore, Mary T. Young, Willie H. Drury, Ida C. Fowle, Clifford C. Fowle. No. 11.—Lois M. Cutting, Zilpha A. Cutting, Sarah J. Cutting.—No. 12.—Clara F. Haubrich, Ida J. Abbott, Jennie L. Heath, Fred. Haubrich, Louisa Markoff. No. 13.—James Thrasher, Samuel Thrasher, John Thrasher, Harry Bradstreet, Mary Willard, Ella Chaffin, Emma Thrasher. No. 14.—Mary A. Andrews, Mary E. Laws, Lucy Clark, Maria M. Stone, Laura Ayers, Frank A. Stone, Ada Ayers. No. 15.—Nellie Shepardson, Henrietta West, Flora Nelson, Katie Lawler, Katie McDuff, Annie L. Lewis, Charles Mulhern, Ina L. Burt, Charles L. Noyes, Arthur B. Nev-ers, Willie Hober. No. 18.—Albert F. Fisher, Horace E. Walker.

ARTHUR CHASE, *Supt. of Schools.*

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## REPORT

### Of the Superintending School Committee of District No. 17.

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The Superintending School Committee, of District No. 17, presents the following Report:

The school year was divided into two terms, with an aggregate of 27 weeks in the Primary and Intermediate Departments, and 28 in the Grammar School. The whole number of scholars during the Summer term was 150; Winter, 195. Average attendance. Summer term, 130; Winter, 138.

The Primary School on the Terrace was under the instruction during the year of Miss Mary E. Dimond, a teacher with whose excellences the District is perfectly familiar. Her success was as marked as in former years. Perfect order, enthusiasm in study, a suitable confidence between pupil and teacher, and rapid progress, were apparent at every visit of the Committee. Miss D. succeeds in getting a great deal of work done, and in getting it well done. The great pains taken by her to make her pupils speak correctly, and to acquaint them with the meaning and use of words, deserve especial commendation.

The Pearl Street School was taught both terms by Miss Hattie M. Redfield. This was a good school, but not up to the highest standard. If more energy had been expended in imparting instruction and devising means to interest the scholars in their studies, less would have been required to enforce discipline. But the school was too large to be well handled by a teacher of little experience. Miss R. labored most patiently and earnestly, won the love of her pupils, made the school-room as pleasant and attractive as a good home, and satisfied the Committee that she did all that could reasonably be expected from one of her experience.

Miss Kate L. Dutton was the teacher of the Intermediate Department throughout the year, and she succeeded beyond the expectation of the Committee. Herself a beginner, while her immediate predecessor was an old teacher and a great favorite in the school and district; she entered upon her duties under great disadvantages. Many prophesied a failure. But, while she never completely won the confidence of all her pupils, and the order was never perfect, the school steadily improved throughout the year. And the final examination showed such progress in study as satisfies the usual demands of the District.

Mr. Henry C. Sanders had charge of the Grammar School, during the Summer term, and Miss Annie M. Dean, during the Winter. Both of these teachers came to us with a good record, and good schools were expected under their tuition. Both proved themselves painstaking and efficient, and what was especially gratifying, good disciplinarians. The final examinations were creditable. Certain classes might well receive especial mention. On the whole, though it can be said of neither of these teachers, as has been said of the teacher of the Terrace School, that they succeeded in getting a good deal of work done, yet the progress was good, if not satisfactory.

The Committee cannot forbear calling attention to certain matters of importance:

In his opinion, there is urgent need of reform in the course of study and methods of teaching of our Intermediate and Grammar Schools. At present, almost the whole time of the scholar before entering the High School or Academy, is devoted to the study of the dreary abstractions of Arithmetic, Grammar and Geography. These studies are begun long before the child is mentally capable of really grasping such subjects, and continued to the utter exclusion of studies of far higher interest and utility. The consequence is that when the scholar graduates from the Grammar School to enter the High School or commence business life, his mind is crammed with a mass of dry definitions and useless processes which he will soon forget, while often he is incapable of writing correctly an ordinary letter of friendship; he has no power to make a practical application of what he has learned to the every day affairs of life; and as for the English language, and English literature, and the principles of natural science, he is as ignorant of them as of Hebrew.

Now the best educators insist that the study of Arithmetic should be postponed till the child is ten or eleven years of age, and Gram-

mar till he is fifteen or sixteen, or till the last year in the Grammar school. Then he would be able to take up these studies and complete them in one half the time now devoted to them. Thus time would be saved for the study of the English Language—that most neglected but most necessary of all studies—necessary to enable one to write and speak with accuracy, and to appreciate the thoughts of others as expressed in current literature and in speeches, sermons and lectures heard almost every week. Time would also be saved for the study of a great many other subjects, now neglected—for the study of the principles of physiology, the elements of the natural sciences, the properties and uses of matter, the material and processes of the mechanic arts, the mechanical powers, the materials and manufacture of textile fabrics, and the nature, functions and departments of government, in this country of ours, in which every boy who lives is to be a free, voting, responsible citizen. All of these topics and many more ought to be studied in our Intermediate and Grammar Schools—"the people's Colleges," but they never will be so long as Arithmetic and Grammar hold their present position.

The Committee cannot here discuss this subject. He makes these remarks in the hope of calling attention to the matter and thus preparing the people to co-operate with future Superintendents in any reforms in this direction they may attempt.

Immediate provision ought to be made in every school in the district for the adequate illustration of the subjects studied. No teacher, who understands his work, is satisfied with blackboards and mural maps. We have fine school-houses—why should not a little money be expended for cabinets full of models, specimens, apparatus, &c.? They are as indispensable to good teaching, as the forms of letters to a child learning to read, or as maps to the study of Geography. With such means of illustration at his command, an efficient teacher would accomplish more for a school in one term of twelve weeks than is now accomplished in an entire year. The schools in Claremont ought to be, and might be, as good as any others in the country. That they are not is not wholly the fault of the teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

F. W. TOWLE.











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